

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The particle adhered to the surface of the object is normally adhered to the surface of the object in a charged state. In this case, when the zeta potential between the surface of the object and the particle adhered thereon is adjusted to a different positive or negative side (+ and -), an attracting force acts between the surface of the object and the particle. On the other hand, when the zeta potential between the surface of the object and the particle is the same positive or negative side (both are +, or both are -), they repulse against each other, and hence the particle can easily be removed from the surface of the object. Therefore, after the adherent particle is removed from the surface of the substrate, by controlling the pH value of the liquid so as to adjust the zeta potential between the surface of the object and the particle to the same positive or negative side, re-adhesion of the particle can be prevented. In the case where the object has a glass surface such as the photomask, since the pH value of the liquid is pH 6 or higher and hence the zeta potential can easily be controlled to a minus value, the particle which is removed from the surface of the object can be prevented from re-adhering to the surface of the photomask, by setting the pH value of the liquid to pH6 or higher. The value of pH in the case of the object having the glass surface is more preferably 9 or higher.